

REMARKS

I. Introduction.

Claims 1-10 are pending and stand rejected. An objection was made to the disclosure. Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph. Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) in view of several different references. Various groupings of claims within Claims 1-8 were subjected to separate rejections under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a).

II. Priority.

The specification was amended to include a reference to the prior provisional patent application as requested.

III. The Information Disclosure Statement.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's efforts in correcting and considering the Information Disclosure Statement.

IV. The Objection to the Specification.

The specification has been corrected as requested.

V. The 35 U.S.C. Section 112 Rejection.

Claim 7 has been amended to eliminate the basis for the 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph rejections of Claims 7 and 8.

VI. The 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) Rejections.

A. The Rejections of Claims 9 and 10.

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by: U.S. Patent 3,629,893 issued to Brown; U.S. Patent 4,282,623 issued to Gacuzana; U.S. Patent 3,026,552 issued to Price; and U.S. Patent 3,128,489 issued to Strominski.

Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn. The Brown and Gacuzama references disclose pads comprising sponges. The Price reference discloses wire brushes, steel wool detergent pads, or cloth, and the Strominski reference discloses a steel wool pad.

None of the references teach or disclose a scrubbing surface comprising a nonwoven material impregnated with a cleaning composition as currently described in Claims 9 and 10. It should be understood, that in other embodiments, the scrubbing surface may comprise other types of material.

B. The Rejection of Claims 1 and 5-10.

Claims 1 and 5-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,381,574 issued to Benkovsky.

Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn. The Benkovsky reference discloses a scrubbing surface for cleaning a golf ball that is located inside a closed compartment when the device is in use. The Benkovsky reference does not teach or disclose a scrubbing device in which the scrubbing surface is exposed to the external environment when the scrubbing device is in use.

VII. The 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) Rejections.

A. The Rejection of Claims 1 and 5-8.

Claims 1 and 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,978,999 issued to deBlois, et al. in view of Strominski.

Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn. The deBlois, et al. reference discloses a cleaning attachment that either has bristles thereon, or is comprised of intermeshed fibers similar to a steel wool pad. Among other things, the combination of references cited does not teach or disclose, and thus does not render obvious a hand-held scrubbing device comprising a scrubbing surface comprising a nonwoven material impregnated with a cleaning composition.

B. The Rejection of Claims 1-3 and 5-8.

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,870,790 issued to Root, et al. in view of Strominski.

Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn. The Root, et al. reference discloses a cleaning attachment in the form of a variety of rotating brush tools. Among other things, the combination of references cited does not teach or disclose, and thus does not render obvious a hand-held scrubbing device comprising a scrubbing surface comprising a nonwoven material impregnated with a cleaning composition.

C. The Rejection of Claims 1 and 4-8.

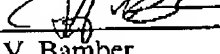
Claims 1 and 4-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,649,334 issued to Henriquez, et al. in view of Brown.

Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn. The Henriquez, et al. reference discloses a cleaning attachment in the form of a brush head assembly or a sponge head assembly. Among other things, the combination of references cited does not teach or disclose, and thus does not render obvious a hand-held scrubbing device comprising a scrubbing surface comprising a nonwoven material impregnated with a cleaning composition.

VIII. Summary.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
LUCIO PIERONI, ET AL.

By 
Jeffrey V. Bamber
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 31,148
(513) 627-4597

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Customer No. 27752